



Guide to Hunting in Germany

08j – FEATHERED GAME (*FEDERWILD*)

(4) Wild Pigeons (*Wildtauben*)



Ringeltaube (Ringdove or Wood Pigeon)

Breeding season
Eggs per nest

March – June
4

The Ringdove is the largest of the four varieties of wild pigeons.

Ringdoves are about 17 inches long, weigh about 1 pound, and have a wingspan of 30 inches. Their overall color is bluish-gray.

The belly of the Ringdove has a wine-red shine that grows brighter toward the tail.

A white stripe on the tail can be seen when the pigeon is in flight. The front edge of the wings has a white border; the bill is red with a yellow tip; the feet are red; and the eyes are circled by a yellow ring.

The most distinctive marks of a mature pigeon are the half moon-shaped white spots on each side of the neck that, from a distance, appear like a ring and, with the white band on the wings, account for the birds name. Their wings clap noisily during flight.



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Hohltaube (Stock Dove)

The Stock Dove is considerably smaller than the Ringdove. The Stock Dove has a bluish color with a dark ring around the eyes.

The name comes from their behavior of making their nest in a hollow tree.

There is **no open season in Germany** for the Stock Dove.



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Turteltaube (Turtle Dove)

The Turtle dove is the smallest wild pigeon in Germany. A Turtle Dove's predominant color is reddish-brown.

The name comes from the bird's call, which sounds like the word turtle.

There is **no open season in Germany** for the Turtle Dove.



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Türkentaube (Collared Turtle Dove)

Slightly larger than the Turtle Dove, the Collared Turtle Dove has a prominent black stripe on the rear and sides of the neck.

The *Türkentaube* is not migratory, and is widely dispersed throughout Europe and Western Asia.

This dove has a white patch on the throat, and white bars on the wings.